



SILSDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Fifty-Eighth Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

The report is an "Ordinary Report" drawn up on the lines suggested in the Ministry of Health Circular 1650, and, in accordance with the economy cuts recommended by the Central Authority and local Councils, repetition is avoided by reference to information given in the "Survey Report" of 1930. Further details of work done are restricted to facts essential to the maintenance of the continuity of records kept for the past fifty-seven years.

No change in the boundaries of the area has been or is likely to be made under the County Review of Districts.

The year has been comparatively uneventful.

From non-notifiable infectious disease, especially from Influenza and Chicken Pox, the district was comparatively free. From notifiable infections it was comparatively free, except for Scarlet Fever which, however, was much less prevalent than in 1936.

Trade conditions improved until Autumn, when unemployment began to increase. Vital statistics show Birth-rate = 11·62, Death-rate = 14·65 and Infant Mortality = 34.

A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

1. PHYSICAL FEATURES

2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

} See 1930 Report.

3. GENERAL DETAILS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,101
Population (1921 Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,880
Population (1931 Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,906
Population (1937 estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,981
Inhabited Houses (1937 estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,644
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£26,320
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£101

VITAL STATISTICS.

(a) BIRTHS.

The Births registered as occurring in or belonging to the District were 58.

Legitimate ... 28 males and 28 females.

Illegitimate ... 0 male and 2 females.

Birth-rate on an estimated population of 4,981 is equivalent to 11·6 per 1,000, compared with 9·6, 12·1 and 11·9 in the previous three years, with 12·1 for the Craven Combined Districts, and with 14·9 for England and Wales.

(b) DEATHS.

The deaths, after correction by the inward transfer of residents dying outside the District and the outward transfer of non-residents dying inside the District, numbered 34 males and 39 females—a total of 73.

The Death-rate is thus 14·6, compared with 10·6, 13·0 and 10·9 in the previous three years, with 15·1 for the Craven Combined Districts, and 12·4 for England and Wales.

(c) INFANT MORTALITY.

The infant deaths, as corrected by the Registrar General, were 1 male and 1 female.

The infant mortality was therefore 34 per 1,000 births, compared with 21, 110 and 50 in the previous three years, with 53 for the Craven Districts, and 58 for England and Wales.

(d) STILL BIRTHS.

Number of still births registered, 5.

Percentage of still births to total births (alive and still), 7·9.

(e) MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Number of maternal deaths from puerperal causes—0.

Mortality rate per 1,000 live births—nil, compared with 3·30 for the Craven Combined District and with 3·2 for England and Wales.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS.

The seven principal zymotic diseases, namely Small Pox, Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever and Diarrhoea, were responsible for 1 death during the year, viz. : Diphtheria 1.

The Zymotic death-rate, therefore, was ·2, compared with ·4, ·0 and ·0 in the previous three years, and with ·14 in the Craven Combined Districts.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death in Silsden Urban District, 1937.					M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	34	39
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
2 Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1	—
6 Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	1
7 Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	—	—
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	3	3
10 Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
11 Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—
12 General paralysis of insane	...	...	...	...	—	—
13 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	6	2
14 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	—
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	1	2
16 Heart disease	...	...	...	...	10	13
17 Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	—	—
18 Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	4	5
19 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	—
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	—	5
21 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
22 Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	—	—
23 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	—	—
24 Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
25 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	—	—
26 Other diseases of liver	...	...	...	...	—	1
27 Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
28 Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	—	2
29 Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30 Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	—	—
31 Congenital debility, premature birth, &c.	...	...	...	...	1	—
32 Senility	...	...	...	...	2	—
33 Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	—
34 Other violence	...	...	...	...	1	2
35 Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	3	3
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	—	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above) :						
Small-Pox	...	...	...	...	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—

To the total death-rate of 14·6

Infectious Disease contributed	·20
Tuberculosis	1·20
Cancer	1·60
Heart Disease	4·61
Respiratory Diseases	1·60
Apoplexy	·60
Premature Birth, &c.	·20
Senility	·40
Other Diseases	4·2

While the general death rate is above average, the Infant Mortality is low, and Maternal Mortality in child-bed nil.

B.—PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(1)—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

M.O.H.—WILLIAM SCATTERTY, M.A., M.D., C.M., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector—J. W. THORNTON, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(2). PROVISION OF HOSPITALS, ETC.

(3). PROFESSIONAL NURSING, MIDWIVES, ETC.

} See 1933 Report.

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1.—WATER SUPPLY.

The public water undertaking is in the hands of the Council, and except in specially dry seasons the supply meets all requirements. By agreement, further supplies can readily be obtained from the adjoining mains of the Bradford Corporation Waterworks.

As to quality of supply and lack of pressure, no complaints were received. The filtration plant and clean water storage tank recently constructed at a high level now meet all requirements. The chlorine plant continues to give satisfaction, and the Analyst's report on the filtered water as regards both chemical and bacteriological purity shows the supply to be eminently suitable for all purposes.

Your Water Engineer reports the following extensions to Water Mains have been carried out during the year to New Housing Developments:—

Housing Site—Howden Road	...	...	40 yds. 4in. mains.
„ „ Haythorns Avenue and Dradishaw Road	...	70 yds. 3in. mains.	
Other Mains—Back Browfield Terrace	...	117 yds. 3in. mains.	
„ „ Back Skipton Road West	...	140 yds. 3in. mains.	
Existing 2in. mains renewed with 3in. diameter.			

2.—SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Except in isolated and outlying areas, the district is well sewered, and further extensions were carried out to new property adjoining Howden Road and Dradishaw Road.

As the result of complaints received from the West Riding Rivers Board with regard to the effluent from the Sewage Disposal Works, a scheme was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health. Provision was made for the installation of 110 ft. 0 in. diameter Percolating Filter, Humus Tanks, Dosing Tanks and Sludge Filters, at an estimated cost of £3,535. A Public Enquiry was held and it is hoped to commence building operations early in February.

Improvements at the works have been carried out, including repairs to buildings and the making of roads, etc.

The Silsden Dyeing Co., Ltd., were prevailed upon to put down a suitable averaging tank of 40,000 gallons capacity in order to equalise the discharge of the trade wastes. This work has been completed and is now working satisfactorily.

3.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

(a) EXCREMENT REMOVAL.

All closets are now on the water carriage system with comparatively few exceptions, and these in the more outlying districts. The type, however, varies, being fresh water cistern flushed closets or waste water closets. The former is now required for all new property, and slowly the latter type is being converted into the more hygienic class. Where water and sewer is available, an effort should be made to abolish the antiquated and insanitary type of tippler.

Your Inspector states that : “During the year 24 waste water closets have been converted into fresh water cistern flush closets.

Provision of extra closet accommodation to existing property, where insufficiency was found, resulted in two additional water closets being provided. Also 24 W.C.’s were installed to new houses.

The following is the number of each kind in use at the end of 1937 :—

Number of	Fresh water closets	...	...	1043
„	Waste water closets	...	...	504
„	Pail or tub closets	...	...	13
„	Privies with covered middens			69
„	Privies with open middens	...		6

The number of privies and pail closets remain unchanged, as all these are in outlying districts, where sewers and water supplies are not available.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.—The new sanitary conveniences continue to prove satisfactory. Extensive damage, however, has been done to them by people using them in an improper manner. The culprits can decide whether this is due to ignorance, carelessness or hooliganism.

(b) SCAVENGING.

This work has been carried out by the Council’s staff. The work is effected during the daytime, and is to all appearance done satisfactorily. During the year, mechanical haulage was introduced ; the latest low-loading type Karrier “Bantam” was purchased. This, while not affecting a financial saving, will greatly increase the collection service.

During the year 17 ashpits were abolished and ashbins provided.

There are now 898 bins in use and 477 dry ashpits.

DISPOSAL.—During the year, negotiations were successfully concluded between the Sewage Committee and the Ministry of Health for the operation of a controlled tip on the site of the Sewage Disposal Works, and tipping has been commenced on the controlled principle.

An effort will be made to utilise waste materials by the baling of waste paper and collection of scrap metals. In the case of the former, the householders in the District have been circularised with regard to this, and it is hoped by their full co-operation to effect an annual saving on disposal.

During the past year 1,387 loads of refuse have been removed to the Council’s tip.”

4. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The district has been subject to routine inspection throughout the past year, and necessary steps taken for the abatement of insanitary conditions when found.

Your Inspector reports the following sanitary work, etc., undertaken in the year ending December 31st, 1937 :—

Number of complaints received during the year	47
Number of Houses built during the year (private enterprise) ...	22
Number of Houses, Premises, &c., inspected	987
Number of Houses under the Housing and Town Planning Acts	—
House drains repaired, cleansed, &c.	43
House drains trapped and ventilated	27
Waste pipes trapped	3
Water closets repaired, cleansed, &c.	26
Additional W.C.'s, provided where insufficiency was found ...	2
Water closets provided to new houses	24
Waste Water Closets converted to Water Closets... ..	24
Houses connected to Sewer	22
Water supply—Houses provided with	22
Sanitary Bins provided to New Houses	22
Sanitary Bins provided in place of insanitary Ashpits ...	19
Dustbins provided where existing bins were dilapidated... ..	17
Dustbins provided where insufficiency was found... ..	—
Removal of Offensive Accumulations	2
Milk Samples taken for Sediment Test (Evidence of visible dirt)	28
Milk Samples taken for Bacteriological examination	2
Milk Samples taken for Adulteration examination	8
Houses disinfected after infectious disease	27
Slaughter-house inspections	345
Bakehouse inspections	12
Dairies and Cowshed inspections	137
Premises examined under "Factory and Workshops Act" ...	46
Tents, Vans, Sheds inspected	12
Samples of Water taken for Bacteriological examination (Public Supplies)	3
Verminous Premises Disinfected	2
Plans approved	43
Plans disapproved	—
Statutory Notices	11
Preliminary Notices (informal)	63

NATIONAL RAT WEEK.—Posters were again exhibited directing the attention of the public to the desirability of destroying rats and mice.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' leaflets were given to persons interested and extensive baiting and trapping were practised. A Council employee was engaged in the preparation of these, with the result that 147 rats were exterminated during the week.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS :

None in the District.

5.—PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

(a) All premises and occupations within the District which can be controlled by Bye-Laws are already so controlled. There are no Common Lodging Houses or Houses Let in Lodgings.

(b) BAKEHOUSES.—All the ten Bakehouses in the district have been inspected and with one exception they are kept in a reasonably satisfactory condition.

(c) OFFENSIVE TRADES.—The number is the same as last year, namely a tannery and a tripe-boiling establishment, and each has been inspected without finding cause for complaint.

(d) CANAL BOATS.—Four were inspected and found to be satisfactory.

(e) FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—There are 60 workshops in the district, which comprise the following :—

Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	10
Nailmakers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	5
Shoemakers and Cloggers	...	...	...	...	...	10
Plumbers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tinner	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dressmakers and Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	6
Watchmaker	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stocking Knitting	...	...	...	...	...	1
Joiners	...	...	...	...	...	6
Tripe Boiler	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tanner	...	...	...	...	...	1
						60

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—Smoke observations were taken throughout the year, but no cause of complaint found.

One more factory introduced electricity in place of steam during the year.

SCHOOLS.—The two schools in the district, Aire View and Hothfield Street, each have a good water supply and lavatory accommodation.

The schools have satisfactory water closet accommodation, both being provided with automatically flushed W.C.'s.

J. W. THORNTON, Sanitary Inspector.

D.—HOUSING.

PROGRESS OF BUILDING :

New Houses erected—

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
By private enterprise ...	9	38	23	46	44	56	22
By Council ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(A) STATISTICS (MINISTRY OF HEALTH TABLE).

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) a. Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	116
b. Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	230
(2) a. Number inspected and defects recorded under Housing Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...
b. Number of Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	11
(3) Number found in such a state as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	—
(4) Number found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	29

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number rendered fit as a result of informal action by the Local Authority	...	28
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS :—

(a) Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which noticees were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	12
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal noticees :—	...	...	...	...	...	...
(a) By Owner	...	...	...	...	...	12
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	—

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—									
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of informal notices :—								
	(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...						—
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—									
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(d) Proceedings under Sec. 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—									
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—OVERCROWDING :—									
(a)	(i.) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	(ii.) „ families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	(iii.) „ persons „ „	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
(b)	New Cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(c)	(i.) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
	(ii.) „ persons thus relieved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
(d)	Number of houses again overcrowded after abatement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(e)	Any other particulars of interest	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

It would appear that building by private enterprise has been on the decline during the year, as compared with previous years. It must be remembered, however, that 1936 was an exceptional year. Two new building sites have been developed.

In the James Square area, 11 houses were reconditioned by the owners, while the County Council, as part of their road-widening scheme, demolished the unsightly and insanitary conveniences and ashplaces adjoining the main road.

OVERCROWDING.

No serious example of legal overcrowding has been found, although this must not be taken as evidence that there is no shortage.

Programmes of repair where houses are not in all respects reasonably fit for occupation are naturally rendered more difficult owing to the inability to re-house tenants elsewhere.

No complaints have been received and no representations made of any unhealthy areas in the district, although there are several individual houses which call for urgent remedial measures to make them in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

J. W. THORNTON, Housing Inspector.

E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are 63 producers in the district, occupying 93 cowsheds, and approximately 830 cows in milk.

During the year three additional cowsheds were registered with the County Authority, bringing the total in the area to six.

During the year two new cowsheds were constructed, while structural alterations and improvements were effected in seven more instances.

There are still, however, several cowsheds which require complete re-construction to bring them up to the required standard.

During 1937 the County Veterinary Surgeon made 1,828 inspections of cows, taking ten samples of milk and four of expectorate for bacteriological examination. Six samples contained Tubercle Bacilli and the cows were slaughtered.

In his latest published report, the Veterinary Surgeon states that five cows were slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order and that the cleanliness of the cattle and premises was satisfactory. His summary shows that the percentage of tuberculous cows slaughtered in Silsden was .71, compared with .69 in the Rural Districts of Craven, with 1.27 in the Craven Urban Districts and with 1.20 in the West Riding administrative county.

28 samples of milk were taken during the year and proved satisfactory, as did also 8 samples taken for adulteration.

(b) MEAT INSPECTION.

The number of registered and licensed slaughterhouses in the district still remains the same, viz., 2 registered and 3 licensed.

Minor alterations have been carried out in one of the slaughterhouses, but the conditions remain very little improved, and once again, I must draw your attention to the unsatisfactory conditions under which the Inspector has to work during his inspection of meat.

During the year, 345 visits were paid to meat shops and slaughterhouses.

The following were the amounts of meat found unfit for food, and voluntarily surrendered and destroyed :—

Beef	...	1,155 lbs.	(2 carcasses and 14 parts for Tuberculosis).
Pork	...	373 lbs.	(2 carcasses and 9 parts for Tuberculosis).
Mutton	...	36 lbs.	
Offal	...	513 lbs.	

J. W. THORNTON, Meat Inspector.

(c) ADULTERATION OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

During the year, the Council joined the West Riding County Council's scheme, and the Inspector was appointed as the Milk Sampling Officer, under the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act.

Eight samples were taken and all proved satisfactory.

F.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

(a) NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Influenza was very prevalent among children attending both Aire View and Hothfield Schools in Spring, the percentage present falling to 51 in Aire View and 58 in Hothfield. Chicken Pox in July was reported as the cause of 44 cases and several contacts in Aire View School.

(b) NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

There were notified 23 cases of Scarlet Fever or suspected Scarlet Fever (compared with 24, 2 and 40 in the previous three years), 5 cases of Diphtheria, 1 Enteric Fever and 2 Pneumonia.

Removed to Hospital : Scarlet Fever 23, Diphtheria 4, Enteric 1.

Mortality : Diphtheria 1.

Death-rate from Zymotic Disease, .20.

(c) TUBERCULOSIS.

As in past years, a register is kept, the houses visited, particulars obtained and advice given as to precautions to be adopted with regard to cleanliness of premises, ventilation, sleeping accommodation and the prevention of indiscriminate spitting. Printed instructions are supplied, and a sputum flask provided where necessary. Disinfection of the rooms occupied by the patient is carried out on removal or death.

(a) INCIDENCE :

Pulmonary : 3 Males (ages : 33, 46, 56) ; 3 Females (ages 21, 28, 36).

Non-Pulmonary : 1 Male (age 21).

(b) MORTALITY :

Pulmonary : 3 Males (ages 23, 37, 40) : 1 Female (age 39).

Non-Pulmonary : 0 Male ; 0 Female.

Death-rate from Tuberculosis 1.20, compared with .4, .1 and .8 in the previous three years.

Number on Register at end of year : Pulmonary, 8 males, 3 females ; Non-Pulmonary, 1 male, 1 female.

No action was found necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade, nor under the P.H. Act, 1925, Sec. 62, which empowers certain cases of Tuberculosis to be compulsorily removed to Hospital.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS :—

Sputum for tubercle bacilli, 3 ; Swabs for Diphtheria, 5.

I would here beg to express my indebtedness to Mr. Thornton, Sanitary Inspector, for valuable assistance in carrying on the sanitary administration of the District, and for supplying many details of work carried out by his Department during the year under review.

In conclusion, I venture to repeat the following recommendations for your special attention :—

1. The erection of a Public Abattoir in place of existing Slaughterhouses.
2. Improvements in Cowsheds and methods of certain milk producers.
3. Erection of houses to abate overcrowding.
4. Construction of percolating filter at sewage farm.

WILL SCATTERTY, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

KEIGHLEY,
May, 1938.

COMPARATIVE TABLE.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY IN 1937.

	England and Wales.	125 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	Craven Combined District.
	Rates per 1,000 Population.			
BIRTHS :				
Live	14·9	14·9	15·3	12·1
Still	0·60	0·67	0·64	0·61
DEATHS :				
All Causes	12·4	12·5	11·9	15·1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0·00	0·01	0·00	0·00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0·02	0·03	0·02	0·01
Scarlet Fever	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·00
Whooping Cough	0·04	0·04	0·03	0·02
Diphtheria	0·07	0·08	0·05	0·09
Influenza	0·45	0·39	0·42	0·54
Violence	0·54	0·45	0·42	0·54
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Smallpox	0·00	—	0·00	0·00
Scarlet Fever	2·33	2·56	2·42	1·17
Diphtheria	1·49	1·81	1·38	0·54
Enteric Fever	0·05	0·06	0·04	0·07
Erysipelas	0·37	0·43	0·34	0·14
Pneumonia	1·36	1·58	1·20	0·53
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	58	62	55	53
Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years of age.	5·8	7·9	3·2	1·10
MATERNAL MORTALITY :				
Puerperal Sepsis	0·97	} Not available		·00
Others	2·26			3·30
Total	3·23			3·30
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).			
MATERNAL MORTALITY :				
Puerperal Sepsis	0·94	} Not available		·00
Others	2·17			3·14
Total	3·11			3·14
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Puerperal Fever	13·93	17·59	11·52	4·18
Puerperal Pyrexia				



**Silsden
Urban District Council**

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1937.

KEIGHLEY, MAY, 1938.

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